



NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

Canterbury wins big at planning awards

Canterbury planners and projects were the big winners at the 2014 New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) Awards, presented in Queenstown tonight, sweeping five of the 11 awards.

The Gala Awards Dinner was the culmination of the NZPI's national conference and recognised winners from Auckland, Wellington, Kapiti and Canterbury.

NZPI CEO Susan Houston says the awards celebrate the important role of the planning profession in the community and highlight the best of the best from around the country.

"Planners are grappling with some of the most complex issues facing our communities today and the winners have all triumphed in their areas of expertise and made a positive impact on New Zealand communities," Ms Houston says.

The Christchurch Southern Motorway Stage 2 project saw GHD, Beca and the New Zealand Transport Agency jointly named as winners of the Best Practice Award for Excellence in Consultation and Participation Processes.

The judges recognised the consultation strategies employed by the winning project team, in the face of initial public opposition, addressed many of the issues that were raised and over a three year period and transformed the perception of the project through responsive and proactive consideration of public feedback.

Environment Canterbury was also in the winners' circle for its Land and Water Regional Plan, collecting the Best Practice Award for District and Regional Planning.

The plan was regarded by the judges as a very good example of a multi disciplinary staff team working with consultants including planners, scientists, resource managers, hydrologists and engineers to balance technical and community interests. The resulting land and water plan may be a future model for other parts of the country.

The Best Practice Strategic Planning and Guidance Award went to Selwyn District Council for its excellent work in the Rolleston Town Centre and Foster Recreation Park Masterplans. The council faced the challenges of population growth, the need to provide a social and economic heart for the town and wider district, and a rapidly changing post-earthquake environment. It met the challenges and achieved a number of best practice outcomes in planning and urban design.

Canterbury-Westland NZPI branch member Claire Lindsay took home the Lance Leikis Graduate Award for her significant contribution to the profession of planning. The award recognised her efforts in lifting the profile of Young Planners and planning in Christchurch, through her passion for the profession. The judges noted her dedication to forging relationships with other professional organisations and assisting students of planning at Lincoln University.

Christchurch City Councillor Sue Wells received the Alfred O. Glasse Award for outstanding services to planning by a non-planner, in recognition of her 15 years on the Council in planning related roles, including Chair of the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

The Nancy Northcroft Supreme Best Practice Award went to Auckland-based Campbell Brown Planning for its work on the Sunderland Hobsonville Point Development Plan.

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New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI)

The NZPI is the voice of planning in New Zealand. It is the professional organisation representing this country's planners, resource managers, urban designers, and environmental practitioners. Planners have a critical role in shaping New Zealand's future by helping to develop solutions to key issues, such as population growth, infrastructure needs, pressure on natural resources and environments, demographic change and transport. For more information visit www.planning.org.nz.

Note to media: Full citations for all NZPI Award winners are available on request.

Media Contact: Simon Roche, Senior Account Director, Wright Communications, 09 366 2457 or 0272 692 876. Email: simon@wrightcommunications.co.nz.

New Zealand Planning Institute®

Level 9, 52 Swanson Street

PO Box 106 481

AUCKLAND 1143

admin@planning.org.nz | www.planning.org.nz

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